Investigating character changes in Tuesday's with Morrie by Mitch Albom: an existential study.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, teachers, and the people who have supported me throughout my education. Thanks for always beings there and making me see this adventure through to the end.

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Table of Contents

Abstract.....7
Introduction.....8
Research Objectives.....11
Research Questions.....11
Literature review.....12
Methodology.....19
Analysis.....21
Chapter 1.....21
Chapter 2.....26
Chapter 3.....35
The Influence of Morrie on Mitch Albom Personality Development..35
Morrie’s Influence on Mitch’s Wisdom.....36
Morrie’s Influence on Mitch’s Self Concepts.....38
On Mitch’s Self Concept of Happiness and Love.....38
On Mitch’s Self Concept that Men do not Cry.....43
Conclusion.....46
Refrences.....47

Abstract

This study examines how the protagonist, Morrie, and the supporting character, Mitch, search for meaning in their lives in Mitch Albom's novel "Tuesdays with Morrie." Using library research and a psychological approach, the study focuses on the analysis of the novel, employing Viktor Frankl's existentialism and its three pathways to finding meaning. The analysis demonstrates that Morrie and Mitch find purpose by engaging in creative endeavors, experiencing significant events, and adopting a specific attitude towards suffering. Their collaborative project benefits not only themselves but also those around them, leading to a deeper understanding of the importance of love and relationships. Through their encounters and acceptance of suffering, their perceptions of life undergo a transformative shift, guiding them towards a better future. In summary, the analysis reveals that Morrie has a significant impact on Mitch's personality through his teachings, advice, and interactions. Mitch undergoes a positive and rapid transformation, shifting from arrogance and greed to love and care. This change is accompanied by a shift in his self-concept, as he recognizes the importance of love over materialistic pursuits and embraces the acceptance of emotions, including crying. These changes in Mitch's personality and self-concept are considered meaningful and rapid. The factors influencing Mitch's personality include his intellectual capacity and educational experiences, with his intelligence aiding in life adjustment and Morrie's role as a teacher contributing to his personal growth.

Introduction

"Tuesdays with Morrie" is a memoir penned by the American author Mitch Albom. Mitchell David Albom, known for his accomplishments as an author, journalist, and musician, has achieved remarkable success with his books, selling over 40 million copies worldwide. This particular memoir documents a series of visits made by Albom to his former sociology professor, Morrie Schwartz, who gradually succumbs to ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). The book garnered significant acclaim, topping the New York Times Non-Fiction Best-Sellers List for a remarkable 23 weeks in 2000. Its popularity endured for over four years on the New York best-selling list. In 2006, "Tuesdays with Morrie" became the best-selling memoir of all time. An unabridged audiobook, narrated by Albom himself, was also released, featuring excerpts from audio recordings Albom had made during his conversations with Schwartz prior to writing the book. In 2007, a new edition with an afterword by Albom was published, commemorating the book's ten-year anniversary.

In 1995, Albom married Janine Sabino. It was in the same year that he reconnected with Morrie Schwartz, his former professor who was battling ALS, commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease. This reunion proved to be a turning point for Albom, inspiring him to write the novel

"Tuesdays with Morrie" and launch his career as an author. Published in 1997, the book recounts the story of Morrie and Mitch's time together.

The novel is divided into four parts, exploring Morrie and Mitch's respective childhoods, their time spent teaching and studying at Brandeis University, their lives after Mitch's graduation, and their reunion later on. The two individuals lead contrasting lives, with Morrie experiencing early hardships, including the loss of his mother and mistreatment from his father. In contrast, Mitch's childhood is filled with fond memories, devoid of significant suffering.

Anxiety is one of the psychological issues that can be found in the story. This character (Mitch) is worried as he faces many problems in his life that he cannot solve. Anxiety can come to the character (Mitch) because he feels empty in life and lost his way in life. This leads to Mitch not knowing the true purpose of life. It is recommended to approach this situation by searching for the meaning of one’s existence. Therefore, we have to choose whether we want to discover it or not. These options will show you how to find meaning in life and make your journey smeaningful or meaningless. One of the works of literature that describes the discovery of a purposeful life is the novel *Tuesday with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. Clara Reeve in Welleck and Warren sstates: "The novel is a description of real life, behavior, and the time in which it is written" (1956: 216). Novels take facts from reality and create them with imagination. In the novel, the problems of a person's life are depicted in the life of the hero. If it is proposed to someone who is important to others, the effect of the suggestion is higher. We can find important people in our life like parents, friends and teachers. In fact, they are people who give us sincere advice without ulterior motives. You can find this type of social life in novels. The novel is a microcosm of social life. There are different types of relationships in the novel. The novel represents the meaning of human existence, life and love. We can learn how people live socially. Studying novels is a way to learn about social life. We also learn suggestive words from the novel. Research shows that

deliberate suggestions can affect people's learning and memory activities and behavior. But it's not just a deliberate suggestion, it influences our thinking and behavior. Unintended suggestions can have the same effect. For example, if someone feels special, they can give advice. However, many factors affect the expected response. It can be from our past experiences, our current beliefs, our experiences, and most importantly, others. Therefore, when, where, and by whom the offer is made is the most important for the effectiveness of the offer. *Tuesday's with Morrie* is an example of a connection between two people (Mitch and Morrie) in the novel, as well as the relationship between teacher and student. Mitch is an example of a person lost in this cruel world in this novel. He gave up on his dreams and didn't trust others. He ignores his family and forgets about his friends until he meets Morrie, a former university professor. Mitch becomes a better person after few meetups with his former professor Schwartz. It shows that Morrie's advice has an effect on Mitch's character. This novel shows that students need teacher guidance. It also shows that teachers' advice is important to their students. Advice can change one's behavior and help solve problems. In social life, sometimes there are people who care about us and help us when we have problems. Family and friends are the closest people in our lives. They are the first people we take care of. They will help us in many ways. One's opinion about what to do or how to behave can be beneficial. But that doesn't mean we have to do what he suggests. However, suggestions help us decide to do something and solve problems, because subconsciously, suggestions affect our thinking and behavior.

Both individuals face numerous challenges in their lives, prompting them to contemplate the meaning of life. Morrie, having experienced suffering and significant events, discovers the importance of finding meaning within those experiences. Conversely, Mitch has yet to find such significance, leading him to despair over his failures and the loss of a loved one. To compensate for his feelings of uselessness, Mitch becomes fixated on pursuing wealth, believing that money will grant him the

ability to do anything. His motivation stems from the desire to prove his usefulness to his uncle and improve his own life. Nevertheless, the emptiness he feels ultimately leads him to an epiphany. He reconnects with his beloved college professor, Morrie, who guides him in finding his purpose and direction in life. This profound journey of self-discovery serves as the focal point of this study, as it aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the novel's exploration of the true meaning of life.

This research aims to explore uses of Viktor Frankl's three pathways for the main and supporting characters, Mitch and Morrie. Viktor Frankl's theory of existentialism is considered useful for analyzing the psychological aspect of the novel. According to Frankl, the central theme of existentialism is "To live is to suffer, to survive is to find meaning in suffering" (1984: 11). Existentialism is about finding meaning within yourself. He must find a purpose in every state, even the worst has a purpose. There are three important foundations in this theory, which are freedom of the will, the will to meaning, and the meaning of life. Frankl says in Lewis that: “Freedom of the will refers to the freedom to choose a response to the conditions of life; it is not liberation from the conditions of life' (2011: 9). Freedom is an important thing in human life. It is a means for everyone to accept what they should do to face every situation in their life. In Evans, Frankl finds that “the will to meaning is the primary motivation and deepest desire of every human being” (2012: 7). Freedom of will is followed by will to meaning. Every man has a desire to satisfy or complete his freedom. This desire motivates a person to find the meaning of life. If one person has freedom and will, he is able to achieve the meaning of life. Frankl says in Lewis: “The meaning of life is considered an objective requirement characteristic of the environment” (2011: 10). The meaning of life is in the life of man himself. He must discover his own meaning, because every person has his own meaning in life. In Viktor Frankl's existentialism, he formulates three paths to meaning. He states: According to logotherapy, we can discover this meaning in life in three

different ways: (1) by creating a work or performing an act; (2) by experiencing or meeting someone; and (3) the attitude we take to inevitable suffering (1984: 133). The first way is to make or create something. The second way is to experience something or meet someone. The final path is to take an attitude toward pain or suffering. Through these paths, people are able to find the meaning of life

The theory of personality has been also applied to the study to answer the third objective. Elizabeth Hurlock's theory of personality change has been employed to analyse the Mitch Albom's personality changes including the underlying causes of the development and how it develops.

Research Objectives

1) To determine the factors motivating the characters Morrie and Mitch to explore the meaning of life in *Tuesday's with Morrie* by Mitch Albom.
2) To analyse the purpose of existence explored by the characters Morrie and Mitch in *Tuesday's with Morrie* by Mitch Albom.
3) To analyse how Morrie Schwartz influences Mitch Albom's personality?

Research Questions

1) What are the factors motivating the characters Morrie and Mitch to explore the meaning of life in *Tuesday's with Morrie* by Mitch Albom?
2) What do the characters Morrie and Mitch explored in finding the purpose of existence in *Tuesday's with Morrie* by Mitch Albom.

3) How does Morrie Schwartz influence Mitch Albom personality?

Literature review

In his book A Handbook to Literature, Holman gives a definition of character. Holman states, “Character is a brief descriptive sketch of a personage who typifies some definite quality. The person is described not as an individualized personality but as an example of some vice or virtue or type” (1960: 79). It can be said that character is general or short information about a person who has similarity with human being and can be seen through the story. Characters in a story are the imitation of human in a real life. They have a bad or a good side as if they were real human beings.

The characters can be categorized into different types. They can be flat, round, static, or dynamic. Burroway states, “A flat character is one who has only one distinctive characteristic, exists only to exhibit that characteristic, and is incapable of varying from that characteristic. A round character is many faceted and is capable of change” (1992: 100-101). Both flat and round characters have some similarities to static and dynamic characters. Flat character has common characteristics to static character that is single-sided and is not able to change. Round character has common ground to dynamic character that has many-sided and is able to change. Regarding a scholarly work, Roberts and Jacobs (1987:63) characterize a person as "a sensible copy of an individual with every one of the great and terrible characteristics of being human". As such, we can likewise say that a person is a copy of an individual with every one of the great and terrible characteristics. In this study, therefore, a character is a person who does something in the narrative.

Kalish (1971: 52-53) explains that character is a strong combination of what drives a person's behavior and brand equity. According to psychology, dynamic people are people who are constantly growing. The term "identity as an entity" means that an entity is not a collection of many different parts, but an organization or "entity". This is called a personality trait that distinguishes him from other people. A person's behavior is how they respond to a situation.

Therefore, we can say that a person's personality is a variable and interrelated organization of individual characteristics that distinguish him from other people and motivate his behavior.

In the words of Pikunas (1976: 23), development encompasses all of the processes of change by which a person's potentials emerge as new qualities, skills, characteristics, and related traits. It includes the gains from growth, maturation, learning, and achievement that are relatively irreversible over the long term. From the above meanings of character and improvement, we can conclude character improvement as each of the cycles of transformation and mutual association of irreplaceable elements into a whole that leads a person to act as he does and that makes him unique in relation to others.

Those similarities of the characters can be seen in the following quotation. According to Perrine:

All fictional characters may be classified as static or developing. The static character is the same sort of person at the end of the story as at the beginning. The developing (or dynamic) character undergoes a permanent change in some aspect of character, personality, or outlook. The change may be a large or a small one; it may be for better or for worse; but it is something important and basic: it is more than a change in condition or a minor change in opinion (1988: 69).

Characters in fiction may be classified into two characters, static and dynamic character. The static character does not change from the beginning to the end of the story or it can be said that the static character is changeless. On the other hand, the dynamic character changes in some aspects. It can also be called that the dynamic character is changeful.

There is supporting statement about the definition of conflict. The opinion of Holman is that, “Conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot” (1960: 105). Conflict is something that makes the character competes with the other power or influence in a plot. The character will survive or give up to his opponent. To stay alive, the character has to make some efforts. Because of these efforts, conflicts appear in a story. Perrine defines conflict as, “A clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills” (1988: 42). Conflict is a disagreement of acts, thoughts, wants, or motivations the characters feel. Those disagreements lead to the conflict that happens within the characters which comes from the internal or the external factor. Conflict may influence the behaviour of the characters into the different or the same as their previous behaviour.

Conflict may be internal or external. According to Meyer, “External conflicts may place the protagonist in opposition to another individual, nature, or

society” (1990:45). External conflict is conflict that happens between the characters with the outside force. Meyer also states that, “Conflict may also be internal; in such a case some moral or psychological issue must be resolved within the protagonist” (1990:45). On the other hand, internal conflict is conflict that happens within the character itself. Furthermore, conflict has four points. According to Holman, there are four types of conflict. This person, usually the protagonist, may be involved in conflicts of four different kinds: (1) he may struggle against the forces of nature; (2) he may struggle against another person, usually the antagonist; (3) he may struggle against society as a force; or (4) two elements within him may struggle for mastery (1960: 105).

The extrinsic elements are the elements that influence the text from the outside and may not have a direct role on that text. Extrinsic elements include social, politics, economy, ideology, religiosity, and psychology. One of those elements that is analyzed in this novel is psychological aspect.

The "will to meaning," or the yearning to discover purpose in life, is what Frankl said drives people. He maintained that even in the most hopeless situations, life may have purpose, and that the drive to live comes from discovering that meaning.

Existentialism is all about finding meaning in oneself. He has to find the purpose in every condition, even in the worse condition has a purpose.

In this theory, there are three important foundations which are freedom of will, will to meaning, and meaning in life. Frankl in Lewis states that, “Freedom of the will refers to freedom to choose one’s response to the conditions of life; it is not freedom from conditions in life” (2011: 9). Freedom is an important thing in human’s life. It is the mean for everyone to take what he should do in facing every situation in his life. Frankl in Evans finds that, “The will to meaning is the primary motivation and the deepest longing of every human being” (2012: 7). Freedom of will is followed by the will to meaning. Every human has desire to satisfy or complete his freedom. This desire motivates human being to find the meaning in life. If one man has freedom and will so he is able to achieve the meaning in life. Frankl in Lewis states, “Meaning in life is believed to be an objective demand characteristic of the environment” (2011: 10). The meaning of life is in one’s life itself. He has to discover his meaning by himself because every human has his own meaning in life.

In Viktor Frankl’s existentialism, he formulates the three pathways to meaning. He states:

According to logotherapy, we can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: (1) by creating a work or doing a deed; (2) by experiencing something or encountering someone; and (3) by the attitude we take toward unavoidable suffering (1984: 133).

The first pathway is by making or creating something. The second pathway is by experiencing something or encountering someone. The last pathway is by taking the attitude toward pain or suffering. Through those pathways, people are able to find the meaning of life.

Hurlock (1974) identified three important characteristics that could influence how a person develops their personality. An individual's inherited endowment comes first. The second is what you went through as a family. The third category consists of significant incidents that occur later in life outside the home. Every individual has unique qualities that set them apart from other people. Usually, his life experiences are what give him his distinctive qualities. When two persons are faced with the same complex issue, for instance, one person may continue to struggle while the other gives up. Allport states that no two persons, not even identical twins, have exactly the same life experiences, as cited by Hurlock (1974: 8). Each individual must therefore learn to react to his environment in light of his unique experiences. His many life experiences have taught him various lessons, which have led to various human personalities. Therefore, learning from life events as well as inheritance from one's family have a role in shaping one's personality. According to Allport (1961: 28), personality is a dynamic association of distinctive characteristics that lead to a person acting and thinking differently from other people. It means that personality is made up of a variety of unique traits that change and interact, rather than just one main trait. A character like a mother or a father or a friend or a teacher or anyone can become an idol. For example, when someone admires their teacher, they usually show respect and obey the teacher. He will also imitate his idol's attitude, words and sometimes imitates his performance. As a result, one who is idolized can greatly influence the shaping of personality. .

According to Wellek and Warren (1956: 94), literature is an expression of human feelings about life. Therefore, when reading literary works, we can describe life experiences related to human life, human behavior, human

motivation and other human nature. By reading novels, we can not only get "sweet" pleasure, but also learn about the human struggle to survive, the pain of hard life and much more. *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a novel written by Mitch Albom, is one of the novels that talk about personality development. It is a biographical novel which tells about personality development of Mitch Albom as the main character, which is influenced by his professor named Morrie Schwartz. Personality does not develop naturally. A person's personality is influenced by a number of factors. According to Hurlock (1974: 143-380), there are eight elements that determine a person's personality. Physical determinants, intellectual determinants, emotional determinants, social determinants, aspirations and achievements, sexual determinants, educational determinants, and family determinants are all examples of these factors.

Primary arrangements of variables are the real determinants. The state of being affects the character directly. His behavior reveals what he can and cannot do (activities), his energy level, and how he interacts with others. 144). The degree of satisfaction he feels when he compares his physical abilities and disabilities with others as a source of self-esteem is one way in which his physical condition indirectly affects his personality. Because a person's physical appearance is a representation of who they are to others and to themselves, this indirect influence is greater than the direct one (1974: 146).

Intellectual factors form the second set of factors. The human mind directly affects character through the life changes that the individual causes to the climate, to individuals, and to himself. How people perceive a person's intellectual performance indirectly affects his personality. His self-perception is influenced by what others think of him (1974: 173).

Emotional factors make up the third set of factors. Emotions directly affect an individual's physical and mental functioning, as well as their attitudes, interests, and values (1974: 203). In a roundabout way, close to home, character is influenced by social decisions in light of how an individual deals with his feelings and by his ability to form deep associations with others (1974: 203).

Social determinants form the fourth set of factors. Each assembly claims that its part should by default meet its prerequisites if the assembly can recognize

it. Self-evaluation will be based on social judgments. Self-concept is thus influenced by the social group (1974: 235).

Aspirations and achievements make up the fifth set of factors. A person's goals are his or her aspirations. Desires can be positive (to make progress), pessimistic (to keep away from disappointment), quick (to reach a goal sooner rather than later), remote (to reach a goal in the distant future), practical (within the individual's capabilities), or ridiculous (1974: 264- 266). People of all ages are judged by how they fare compared to their peers. One can be satisfied or dissatisfied with one's achievements. An individual is negatively affected when they are dissatisfied with their achievements because they do not meet expectations. In the hope of achieving his goal, this motivates him to become a compulsive worker (1974: 276). Meanwhile, negative social judgments and self-evaluations cause failure to have no negative impact on a person's personality. However, how extreme disappointment damages character depends on whether the individual chooses to be the disappointment of others or simply without anyone else (1974: 282).

Gender determinants form the sixth set of factors. A person's attitudes and interest in both his own and the other gender play a significant role in determining how sex affects personality. Sexuality affects character both directly and circularly. The effects of sex hormones, which affect how a person looks, feels and behaves, have a direct effect (1974: 292). The impact of the roundabout, which is more pronounced than the direct one, comes from three sources: the impact of social effects on sexual desire, the mentality of huge individuals and their treatment of the individual with regard to his sexuality, and the example of character trimming. to conform to a socially supported example of sexual propriety (1974: 293).

The seventh order of variables is instructive determinants. Since children attend school in the first years of life, when the personality pattern is formed, schools, colleges and teachers have the greatest influence on personality development. That is apart from home and parents. Instructional facilities also offer children their most memorable opportunities to practically explore their strengths and weaknesses. However, children's attitudes toward schools and colleges, teachers, and the value of education largely determine the extent to which educational institutions influence personality development (1974: 322-350).

Family determinants are the eighth set of factors. At any age, a person's relationship with his family is undoubtedly the most important aspect of personality development. The immediate influence of the family on the development of character comes from the technique of child preparation, which is used to create a character design and a correspondence of interests, mentality and value between relatives (1974: 353). The roundabout effect comes, first, from the individual's relationship with a relative whom he respects, values, and loves, and whom he either consciously or unconsciously copies, and second, from the identical representation that his relatives adapt to him for use in evaluating himself (1974 : 354). .

An individual's personality is often influenced by more than one of the eight factors listed above. These distinguish the personality of one person from another. A person's figure doesn't have to be carved in stone by their physique because they are, for example, a garbage dump. His personality is mainly influenced by this physical feature. His personality will be directly and indirectly affected by his physical condition. He lacks the ability to hear and listen normally. Dissatisfaction will result from his disability. As a result, he will lack confidence and self-esteem. As a result, his physical condition becomes the primary factor in determining his personality. On the other hand, intelligence, education, family or other factors can influence his personality. There are two highlights in character changes. They are characteristics of personality changes and the conditions that cause personality changes. Nonetheless, there are certain individuals who have gotten through changes subjectively. The majority of them experience changes in numbers. Quantitative changes involve either strengthening or weakening existing characteristics, which may result in shifts in one's personal self-concept, regardless of whether it is weakened or strengthened.

The third quality is the distinction between gradual and rapid changes. According to Hurlock's explanation, changes are considered to be slow if they are barely observable, whereas rapid changes are obvious to everyone. Changes in personality are typically slow and gradual. This becomes a dangerous warning sign if the personality changes happen quickly at any age.

Because the characteristic of personality changes can be either for the better or for the worse, the term "changes of personality," which means to alter or vary personality, is not synonymous with "improvement of personality."

Changes in a person's personality that are regarded as qualitative typically include rapid changes. This is due to the fact that qualitative changes do not cause existing characteristics to become stronger or weaker; rather, they cause them to be patterned as new characteristics that are easily observable. Hurlock's 1974: 124-129) states that personality changes do not happen by themselves. Physical changes, environmental changes, changes in significant others, changes in social pressures, role changes, strong motivation, changes in self-concept, and psychotherapy are all factors that contribute to personality shifts.

Actual changes can come from development and decline due to illness, injury, or several different circumstances that occur as a result of an individual's lifestyle. The moment individuals go downhill, which is accompanied by real changes, such as graying of hair or loss of teeth, it is difficult to change clothes to the new state. Consequently, a person's self-concept is affected by these physical changes (1974: 124-125).

In addition, climate changes affect an individual's self-image and thus also their behavior. Be that as it may, climate change does not ensure character improvement. It depends on how well the individual is recognized in the new climate and how well the new climate solves his problem (1974: 125).

A person's personality can be affected by changes in important people they know. Changes in his personality pattern are inevitable as significant others undergo personal transformation and he tries to accommodate their behavior, attitude, beliefs, values, and goals. 126).

One must have roles in one's life. His age, economic circumstances and belonging to a new group can change his role. If the job changes and the result is a better position, the self-image of the individual will improve. Whether or not these new roles are beneficial depends on how well they meet his needs and whether or not his social group views them as lower or higher prestige roles. A personality pattern can change apart from roles if there is a strong desire to improve it (1974:127).

At the core of a person's personality pattern is their self-concept, which determines the type of adjustment they make. As a result, the whole personality pattern changes due to the change in one's self-concept. A person must be able and willing to see himself as he really is, not as he would like to be or as others see him (1974:128), in order to change his self-concept.

Despite the fact that the individual is strongly driven, he may require psychotherapy from professionals to help him change his self-concept, figure out how to think about himself in a different way, and put an end to harmful things. During psychotherapy, a person's personality is influenced by a number of factors, including their age, the effects of early training and family conflicts, whether or not they can receive guidance, and peer pressure. 130). A person's personality can be affected for a short or long time by the above conditions. Everything depends on how the individual perceives the strength or weakness of the change and also its importance for his life. The change can take a long time and vice versa if the influence is strong.

The play *Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett i*s a play based on the philosophy of existentialism which means that human being must be doing something to find the purpose of their lives, which even after their best, they are unable to find and so utter out, “Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes, It's awful”. The theme of existentialism , however, dominates the play because the characters are in a constant attempt of finding the purpose of their life. They are waiting for a divine person to come and solve their issues. This wait is in direct accordance with the Christian existentialism that everyone has no beginning and no end and that all are in search of some purpose of life. The play is demonstrating the wait more vigorously than the answers to the questions of humanity because all human beings are living in an absurd world which makes the play an absurd play. The characters of Estragon and Vladimir are not just two human beings, they are the humanity which is suffering and is baffled. In such a situation, humanity is attempting to find some solution in the arrival of Godot, who never comes. When all the aforesaid is combined together, it gives the impression of the play being based on existentialism and that very idea makes it an absurd play. The theme of existentialism, however, dominates the play because the characters are in a constant attempt of finding the purpose of their life. They are waiting for a divine person to come and solve their issues. This wait is in direct accordance with the Christian existentialism that everyone has no beginning and no end and that all are in search of some purpose of life. The play Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett that demonstrating the wait more vigorously than the answers to the questions of humanity because all human beings are living in an absurd world which makes the play an absurd

play(Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett). The characters of Estragon and Vladimir are not just two human beings, they are the humanity which is suffering and is baffled. In such a situation, humanity is attempting to find some solution in the arrival of Godot, who never comes. When all the aforesaid is combined together, it gives the impression of the play being based on existentialism and that very idea makes it an absurd play.

The previous research conducted by Zaenal Makhfuddin explores the meaning of life in Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot" by analyzing the challenges faced by the characters Vladimir and Estragon. Mayangsari and Surya Ratna's study on "Tuesday's with Morrie" by Mitch Albom, focusing on Morrie's struggle to make his life useful to others, is relevant to this research as it also examines Morrie's personal challenges.

Yuni Riyanti's article titled "The Self-actualisation of Morrie Schwartz as Revealed in Mitch Albom’s Tuesday’s with Morrie" discusses how Morrie's journey towards self-actualization leads to him embodying qualities such as open-mindedness, helpfulness, strength, attentiveness, compassion, patience, and wisdom. Nurenza Deviningrum's study, "Morrie Schwartz Life Situations Against Old Age Negative Stereotypes in Mitch Albom's Tuesdays with Morrie," investigates the contradictory situations with negative stereotypes about old age depicted in the novel.

Lastly, Viktor Frankl's book "Man's Search for Meaning" is also referenced in this research to gain a deeper understanding of the three pathways explored in the study, which aim to uncover the main objective.

Methodology

The study uses descriptive qualitative method because the research intents to describe about the influence of Morrie’s that how he find the meaning of life in novel Tuesdays with Morrie and how it helps him to have a positive outlook on life and finds it’s meaning. The main instrument in this research is the researcher herself. It means that the researcher is the main performer in this research. The researcher collecting, analyzing the data, and conduct the research by herself.

Approach is the researcher’s method or view to analyze the thesis. In this study, there are two kinds of approach. There are normative approach and psychological approach.

The first approach is normative approach. The study uses normative approach because there is an object of the study that will be analyzed. The object is original from the literature work in the form of a novel. The novel is supposed to be read and understood by the researcher herself. The second approach is the psychological approach. The study uses a psychological approach because this thesis uses the theory of psychology to analyze the novel. This research studies Mitch's character change after being suggested by his former teacher and he finds out the meaning of life by learning from his professor. Therefore, it is important to use the psychological approach in analyzing this study to understand the problem and get the best result. The theory of psychology used in this to analyse the personality development.. The developments itself can be observed from the progress personality of Mitch Albom.

In this research, the study needs to collect the data from many sources. The main data of this study are paragraphs and dialogues from a novel Tuesdays with Morrie. The study selects carefully the data needed in the novel for the analysis. There are some steps which are used to collect the data for this study. It includes reading of the novel and identifying the problem. In the first step, the data collection process has been done by reading to understand the content of the novel. It is important to read the novel Tuesday with Morrie at least two times. For the first read, try to understand the story of the novel. For the second read, understand the personalities of each character in the novel. This process can be done for a few times for more understanding. Therefore the study will be able to conduct the research without any difficulties.

The second step is identifying the problem. In this step, the study identifies the problem then makes a limitation to focus on certain problem to be analyzed. The problem in this study is the influence of Morrie's suggestion toward Mitch's character change. Therefore the study is limited on Morrie's suggestion and Mitch's character change.

In this research, there are two kinds of data source. They are primary source and secondary source.

The primary source is the novel itself. In this research, the primary sources are taken from novel Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Bloom. From the primary source, the researcher get the primary data includes the paragraphs, sentences, quotations, and the dialogues in the novel.

The other data source is the secondary source. Secondary source includes theories, comments or opinions about this novel, and any others data that is related to the primary source. The secondary data sources are the references of the primary data source.

The researcher reads ***Tuesdays with Morrie*** several times carefully and collects information about the main characters. The study is also carried out by the reading of books and magazine articles related to the character and characterization of the novel. Finally, the research analyzes the data using theories applied on the study. Content analysis has been done to do the analysis of the novel and theories applied on it. The steps are classifying the data that will be analyzed, analyzing the data, and drawing the conclusion based on the data analysis.

The first step is classifying the data. In this step, the data is classified that will be analyzed. The data is classified in many kinds. One will be classified as Mitch's personality and the other will be classified as Morrie's suggestion. This is important to make easier in process of data analysis..

The second step is analyzing the data using the theories. In this step, the study applies the related theories in data. Analyzing data is the main process in data analysis. The theory of existentialism to analyse how Mitch finds the meaning of life by coping with hardships of life.To analyse the personality development changes occurrence gradually on Mitch's character. The last step is drawing the conclusion. After through many steps in analysis of data, conclusions are based on the data analysis. It is the most important part of the analysis. It is influences in the result of the research.

Analysis

Chapter 1

Morrie possesses a multifaceted and evolving character, making him a round and dynamic individual. He exhibits numerous traits and undergoes personal growth throughout the story. Morrie's love and passion for knowledge are

prominent aspects of his personality. Additionally, his genuine concern for others is evident and can be observed in the following quote:

> “*Ahhhh, it’s my buddy,*” he would say when he saw me, in that foggy, high-pitched voice. And it didn’t stop with the greeting. When Morrie was with you, he was really with you. He looked you straight in the eye, and he listened as if you were the only person in the world (1997: 135).

Morrie's love is demonstrated through the attentive care he extends to those around him. He directs his focus solely on the individuals with whom he engages in conversation, demonstrating his genuine interest and concern for them. Furthermore, Morrie's affection for knowledge is evident and supported by the following quote:

> “*But his passion for books is real and contagious*” (1997: 39).

This indicates that Morrie possesses a strong affinity for knowledge and prioritizes education above all else, devoting considerable attention to its pursuit.

Little Morrie, on the other hand, exhibits introverted tendencies, as evidenced by the statement,

> "*Mitch, you remind me of someone I knew who also liked to keep things to himself when he was younger. Who? Me*" (1997: 54).

The influence of his family and surroundings has contributed to Morrie's introverted nature. Pressured by his father to keep his mother's death to himself and discouraged from expressing his grief as a motherless child, Morrie internalizes his emotions, unable to share his pain with those close to him. Furthermore, his father, who is also introverted and avoids social interactions, may have influenced Morrie's introverted tendencies.

However, as an adult, Morrie undergoes a transformation and becomes more extroverted. This shift is evident in the statement,

> "*They went to Washington for protest marches, and Morrie often rode the buses with his students*" (1997: 112).

As a lecturer, Morrie develops a close bond with his students, actively engaging with them and even choosing to ride the bus with them instead of driving his own car. His openness extends not only to his students but also to many others, as seen in his willingness to invite people to his discussions and organize a "*living funeral*" to openly share his feelings with friends and family when he learns of his terminal illness.

"*He made some calls. He chose a date. And on a cold Sunday afternoon, he was joined in his home by a small group of friends and family for a 'living funeral*"(1997: 12).

This displays his inclination towards connecting with and being open to a wide range of people.

Mitch, approaching forty years of age, is a dedicated journalist whose commitment and productivity tend to intensify during this stage of his life. He exhibits a strong passion for his work, as evident in the statement,

"*I worked at a pace that knew no hours, no limits. I would wake up in the morning, brush my teeth, and sit down at the typewriter in the same clothes I had slept in*" (1997: 16).

This highlights his deep enthusiasm for his job, to the point of neglecting his own well-being and personal relationships. He immerses himself in his work, often pushing himself relentlessly to meet deadlines.

However, Mitch's passion in his professional life starkly contrasts his lack of interest in his personal life. This is exemplified in his relationship with his wife, as described in the following quote:

"*I was back to work a week after the wedding. I told her—and myself—that we would one day start a family, something she wanted very much. But that day never came*" (1997: 17).

This reveals that Mitch prioritizes his work over his personal life, particularly his marriage. These traits establish Mitch as a complex character with multifaceted characteristics. Mitch, known for his diligent work ethic, is accustomed to being a hard worker with a singular focus on his job. This can be observed in the following quote:

"*I did four or five media jobs in England, juggling them like a clown. I spent eight hours a day on a computer, feeding my stories back to the States. Then I did TV pieces, traveling with a crew throughout parts of London. I also phoned in radio reports every morning and afternoon*" (1997: 43).

Mitch's commitment to his journalistic endeavors consumes his entire day, leaving little time for personal enjoyment or leisure.

However, Mitch's perspective undergoes a transformation when he reconnects with his former professor, Morrie. He begins to shift his focus towards his personal life, addressing matters that are important to him. One

such matter is repairing his relationship with Morrie, as illustrated in the following quote:

"*I got you something," I announced, holding up a brown paper bag. I had stopped on my way from the airport at a nearby supermarket and purchased some turkey, potato salad, macaroni salad, and bagels. I knew there was plenty of food at the house, but I wanted to contribute something. I was so powerless to help Morrie otherwise. And I remembered his fondness for eating*" (1997: 48).

Mitch's gesture of bringing food that Morrie enjoys reflects his newfound care and consideration for Morrie's happiness during his final days. This change in Mitch's behavior demonstrates his capacity for personal growth, portraying him as a dynamic character.

Morrie experiences an internal conflict when he is faced with the dilemma of keeping his mother's death a secret. As a young child, burdened with the news of his mother's passing through a telegram, Morrie's father instructs him to conceal the truth, especially from his younger brother, David. Morrie's father, who remarries shortly after, pressures him to maintain the façade that their new stepmother, Eva, is David's natural mother. This excerpt describes the situation:

"*And in the mornings he would go to synagogue to say Kaddish—the memorial prayer for the dead—for his mother. He did this to keep her memory alive. Incredibly, Morrie had been told by his father never to talk about her. Charlie wanted young David to think Eva was his natural mother. It was a terrible burden to Morrie. For years, the only evidence Morrie had of his mother was the telegram announcing her death. He had hidden it the day it arrived. He would keep it the rest of his life*" (1997: 77).

Morrie struggles with carrying this secret alone, as he longs to share his grief and sadness with others. However, his father's insistence on silence forces Morrie to internalize his emotions, leading to feelings of misery and a longing for his father's love and acceptance.

Similarly, Mitch experiences his own internal conflict when he is compelled to let go of his dream of becoming a professional musician. This conflict arises after his graduation from Brandeis University, as he believes that the world will provide him with the opportunities needed to fulfill his musical

aspirations. However, Mitch's dreams do not materialize as expected. He describes his experiences:

"*The world, I discovered, was not all that interested. I wandered around my early twenties, paying rent and reading classifieds and wondering why the lights were not turning green for me. My dream was to be a famous musician (I played the piano), but after several years of dark, empty nightclubs, broken promises, bands that kept breaking up and producers who seemed excited about everyone but me, the dream soured. I was failing for the first time in my life*" (1997: 14).

Faced with numerous challenges, including a lack of opportunities to showcase his talent, constant setbacks, and unfulfilled expectations, Mitch feels immense frustration and depression, ultimately abandoning his musical aspirations.

External conflicts are also evident in "*Tuesdays with Morrie*." One such conflict arises between Morrie and his father, Charlie, a Russian immigrant who proves to be an inadequate father to both Morrie and David. Charlie is emotionally distant and neglectful, often ignoring his sons' need for affection and conversation. Mitch recalls,

"*Morrie and his brother, David, would look out the window and see him leaning against the lamppost, and Morrie wished he would come inside and talk to them, but he rarely did. Nor did he tuck them in, nor kiss them good-night*" (1997: 138).

Charlie's indifference and self-centeredness leave Morrie and David yearning for love and attention, especially after the loss of their mother. This leads Morrie to vow that if he ever has children, he will provide them with the affection and care that he never received from his own father.

Mitch also faces an external conflict with his brother, Peter, as depicted in the following quote:

"*The bad news was, my brother did not want me around—not me, nor anyone in the family*"

(1997: 96).

The conflict emerges when Peter falls ill and insists on managing his situation independently, cutting off contact with Mitch and the rest of the family. This deeply hurts Mitch, creating a rift between them and leaving him without any means of communication or reconciliation.

The time setting of "*Tuesdays with Morrie*" spans across the twentieth century, encompassing various periods in Morrie and Mitch's lives. It begins with Morrie's childhood and continues through his teaching years at Brandeis University, as well as his reunion with Mitch. The narrative also includes glimpses of Mitch's childhood, his time as a student at Brandeis, and his eventual reunion with Morrie. The story begins in the 1920s, during the era of the Great Depression, which is mentioned in the line,

"*This was during the Depression*" (1997: 77),

reflecting Morrie's childhood experiences. The narrative progresses through the decades and comes to a close in the 1990s. This is indicated when a limousine carrying Ted Koppel, the host of ABC-TV's "*Nightline*", arrives at Morrie's snow-covered house in West Newton, Massachusetts in March of 1995, marking a significant moment in their final discussions together (1997: 18). This show serves as a culmination of the story, as it leads to Morrie's final moments and the conclusion of their journey.

The primary settings in "*Tuesdays with Morrie*" are Brandeis University and Morrie's house. Brandeis University is frequently mentioned throughout the novel, particularly in relation to significant events involving Morrie and Mitch. The graduation ceremony, for instance, is described in the following quote:

"*When the ceremony is over, we throw our caps in the air, and we are officially graduated from college, the senior class of Brandeis University in the city of Waltham, Massachusetts*" (1997: 3).

This highlights the significance of Brandeis University in the lives of both Morrie and Mitch as they participate in college activities. However, the ultimate setting in the novel is Morrie's house. The following passage emphasizes its importance:

"*The last class of my old professor's life took place once a week in his house, by a window in the study where he could watch a small hibiscus plant shed its pink leaves*" (1997: 1).

It becomes evident that Morrie's house serves as the central location where Morrie and Mitch engage in their final project and discussions.

The social setting depicted in the novel has a significant impact on the characters, particularly Morrie and Mitch, who reside in the United States. The quote:

"*Someplace not as selfish as America*" (1997: 156)

reveals that they live in a country known for its diverse cultures. Among these cultures, modern American culture emphasizes individualism and materialism, which have deeply influenced Mitch. He has become absorbed in his own life, prioritizing his own needs and responsibilities. Individualism promotes independence and a lack of responsiveness to others.

Materialism, another aspect of modern culture, is prevalent in Mitch's mindset. Morrie highlights this by stating,

"*We've got a form of brainwashing going on in our country... Owning things is good. More money is good. More property is good. More commercialism is good. More is good. More is good*"

(1997: 124).

This illustrates the pervasive influence of materialism in America, where possessions and wealth are highly valued. Mitch, influenced by this cultural mindset, becomes drawn to the pursuit of material gain over the years, leading him to prioritize his own life and neglect the well-being of others.

Additionally, the characters' close association with Brandeis University reflects their strong educational backgrounds. Higher education shapes individuals' thinking and behavior, as demonstrated by Morrie's decision to forge his own path in life. He acknowledges the shortcomings of the prevailing culture and encourages others to challenge it, stating,

"*If the culture doesn't work, don't buy it. Create your own*" (1997: 35-36).

Morrie's educated perspective enables him to recognize the flaws in society's values and develop his own meaningful culture—one that emphasizes connection and mutual support.

In summary, the social setting in the novel highlights the influence of American culture, characterized by individualism and materialism, on the characters' lives. However, Morrie's wisdom and educational background enable him to challenge and transcend these cultural norms, emphasizing the importance of genuine human connection and personal values.

Chapter 2

Morrie Schwartz and Mitch Albom, the central figures in the novel "*Tuesdays with Morrie*", set out on a quest to unravel the significance of existence. Throughout their journey, they encounter numerous obstacles and undergo experiences that propel them towards a quest for profound comprehension. They explore diverse paths in their pursuit of purpose and meaning, which encompass their deeds, interactions, and perspectives on the inescapable nature of suffering.

Morrie and Mitch both seek to find the meaning of life by engaging in meaningful work and actions that are unique to them. Morrie discovers his purpose by working as a researcher at a mental hospital. It is during this time that he begins to grasp the true essence of life, as he witnesses the struggles faced by the patients who have been rejected and ignored, deprived of love and compassion. Morrie realizes that material wealth does not bring happiness or contentment and that the key to a fulfilling life lies in human connections, love, and respect. As expressed in the following lines:

> Morrie observed that most of the patients there had been rejected and ignored in their lives, made to feel that they didn’t exist. They also missed compassion—something the staff ran out of quickly. And many of these patients were well-off, from rich families, so their wealth did not buy them happiness or contentment. It was a lesson he never forgot (1997: 110-111).

From his observation, Morrie gains two significant insights: the importance of human relationships and the role of love within that sphere. He recognizes that the patient’s mental health issues arise from a lack of the love and affection that every person, regardless of their circumstances, needs for their well-being. Whether one is considered normal or abnormal, the acknowledgment of one's existence and the presence of love and respect from others are essential. Material possessions hold no significance in nurturing genuine human connections; it is through love and affection alone that true happiness can be found in relationships.

Aside from his role as a researcher at a mental hospital, Morrie dedicates his life to teaching at Brandeis University. At this stage, he has gained a profound understanding of the meaning of life and is eager to share it with

others. Brandeis becomes a platform for him to disseminate the wisdom he has acquired through his quest for the meaning of life, reaching out to his students and the wider college community. In one of his classes, he imparts a lesson on human relationships, employing a unique method known as the trust test. This test underscores the significance of trustworthiness between individuals, emphasizing its importance in fostering meaningful connections. As described in the following lines:

"*You see*", he says to the girl, "*you closed your eyes. That was the difference. Sometimes you cannot believe what you see, you have to believe what you feel. And if you are ever going to have other people trust you, you must feel that you can trust them, too—even when you're in the dark. Even when you're falling*" (1997: 61).

As a professor, Morrie imparts crucial lessons to his students, placing significant emphasis on love and relationships as the most influential elements in the world. One example of the lessons he imparts is the importance of trustworthiness. Trust plays a pivotal role in human relationships, as the absence of trust leads to an unhealthy society with a lack of consideration for others. Without trust, there can be no lasting peace in a society. Trust is essential in fostering faith and harmony among individuals within a community. However, trusting others is not an easy task, as there are various factors that can undermine human relationships. Thus, Morrie stresses the need for individuals to believe in and have faith in others if they wish to be trusted themselves. By highlighting this, he guides his students towards learning how to extend their trust to others, thereby earning trust in return.

Another significant endeavor undertaken by Morrie is conducting interviews. He engages in three interviews with Ted Koppel, a renowned host of the Nightline show. Through these interviews, Morrie utilizes his experience with ALS as a bridge to connect with people and share his life experiences. His objective is to assist others in discovering the meaning of their own lives. The following statement explains Morrie who uses these interviews as a means to send his message to many people,

"*Mitch, maybe they are using me for a little drama. That's okay. Maybe I'm using them, too. They help me get my message to millions of people. I couldn't do that without them, right? So it's a compromise*" (1997: 132).

Morrie seizes the opportunity to openly discuss his terminal illness, aiming to help others find meaning and purpose in the face of approaching death. By sharing his own experience, he demonstrates his ability to navigate his condition without succumbing to fear. Morrie's intention is to impart valuable lessons on how to live and die with peace and tranquility, drawing inspiration from his own journey. Through his current state, he seeks to guide people toward embracing life fully and approaching death with acceptance and serenity. Morrie utilizes discussions as a medium to share the narrative of his life with others, particularly through his regular meetings with his former student, Mitch. These discussions take place every Tuesday at Morrie's residence, serving as a platform for open dialogue and exchange of ideas. Through these intimate conversations, Morrie imparts his wisdom and experiences, offering valuable insights into the meaning of life. The discussions provide a unique opportunity for both Morrie and Mitch to engage in deep reflection and introspection, fostering a profound connection and enabling the transmission of Morrie's life lessons to resonate with others as shown in the following quotation:

> The last class of my old professor’s life took place once a week in his house, by a window in the study where he could watch a small hibiscus plant shed its pink leaves. The class met on Tuesdays. It began after breakfast. The subject was The Meaning of Life. It was taught from experience (1997: 1).

Based on the mentioned quote, the final discussion between Morrie and Mitch takes on a special significance due to Morrie's terminal illness, possibly marking their last year together. During this profound conversation, Morrie aims to share the wisdom he has gained through his own challenging experiences and provide guidance, particularly to Mitch who is still in search of life's meaning. Morrie likely perceives that Mitch has veered off course in his life, pursuing materialistic pursuits that lead to emptiness and dissatisfaction. Mitch yearns to escape the anxiety and worries that permeate his existence, seeking guidance from his old professor to rediscover his true path as a fulfilled human being. Through their concluding project, Mitch has the opportunity to uncover and comprehend the essence of life, as Morrie's teachings significantly contribute to his personal journey. Mitch's understanding deepens as he learns from Morrie's life experiences.

Mitch also strives to find the purpose of life by actively engaging in the creation of their final project. His motivation stems from a strong desire to

preserve his memories of Morrie, which ultimately drives the initiation of their last endeavor. As this statement shows how Mitch finds the purpose of life by participating in the final project:

> The next Tuesday, I arrived with the normal bags of food—pasta with corn, potato salad, apple cobbler—and something else: a Sony tape recorder… I want to remember what we talk about, I told Morrie. I want to have your voice so I can listen to it… later (1997: 62-63).

The concept of the final project arises from their decision to hold regular Tuesday discussions. This project serves as a catalyst for Mitch's exploration of the meaning of life. The mentioned quote highlights Mitch's intention to preserve the valuable insights gained from these conversations by using a tape recorder. The creation of the last project aims to assist individuals, including Mitch, in their pursuit of life's significance in a world often consumed by selfishness.

Morrie's journey towards purpose and meaning is more challenging and substantial compared to Mitch's because Morrie possesses a wealth of experience and a deeper understanding of life's meaning. Morrie's accumulated wisdom surpasses that of Mitch, which contributes to the magnitude of his undertaking.

Morrie finds solace and love in the presence of his relatives and his new stepmother following the death of his own mother, despite the absence of love from his father. They offer their support and care to alleviate the pain Morrie and his brother David experience. In an effort to help them recover from the loss of their mother, the relatives take Morrie and David to different places outside their home. This quotation portrays the relatives' intentions to improve Morrie and David's well-being after their mother's passing. Due to the immense grief caused by their mother's death, Morrie and David find themselves deeply saddened. Recognizing their young age and inability to cope with such a heavy emotional burden on their own, their relatives decide to take them to a new environment. The intention behind this decision is to help them forget their sadness and lessen their pain. Additionally, the relatives hope that the change of scenery will contribute to their healing process and provide a fresh atmosphere for their emotional well-being. Moreover, this relocation allows their relatives to take proper care of them. Ultimately, this approach of taking them to a more uplifting place proves to be an effective way of alleviating their misery and bringing joy and happiness

into their lives. It serves as a problem-solving method to help the children overcome their sorrow. Eva, Morrie's new stepmother, becomes a source of healing and comfort for him, helping to mend his broken heart caused by his father's mistreatment. In a role that transcends traditional boundaries, Eva fills the void of both mother and father figures in Morrie's life. She offers the love and support that he desperately needs, providing a nurturing presence and emotional stability. This statement highlights Eva's significant role in Morrie's life, where she becomes a crucial figure in his healing process and brings positive influence and care into his world. Eva's presence serves as a catalyst for Morrie's healing, lifting him from the sorrow caused by his mother's death and his father's mistreatment. She assumes the dual role of a mother and a father figure, showering Morrie with love and affection and treating him as her own child. This newfound source of support alleviates Morrie's feelings of loneliness, as he now has someone who cares for him deeply. It is natural for every child to require a nurturing and guiding presence in their life, providing a sense of security and imparting valuable life lessons. Eva's influence successfully rescues Morrie from the misery he had endured for years.

As Morrie matures into adulthood, he internalizes the profound impact of love he experienced during his formative years and seeks to emulate it by offering his own resources to others. In his own words, he expresses that true satisfaction does not arise from material possessions but rather from selflessly giving what one has to offer, be it time, attention, or care. Despite his own struggles and suffering, Morrie finds it important to lend an ear and empathize with other people's problems. This act of giving, which brings comfort and smiles to those who are feeling down, is what truly invigorates him. It transcends superficial aspects like possessions or appearance and provides a profound sense of vitality and well-being.

As in the novel’s (Pages 126-128) it provides a reference of the above explanation:

“The truth is, you don’t get satisfaction from those things. You know what really gives you satisfaction?”What?“Offering others what you have to give.”You sound like a Boy Scout.“I don’t mean money, Mitch. I mean your time. Your concern. Your storytelling…“Why do you think it’s so important for me to hear other people’s problems? Don’t I have enough pain and suffering of my own? “Of course I do. But giving to other people is what

makes me feel alive. Not my car or my house. Not what I look like in the mirror. When I give my time, when I can make someone smile after they were feeling sad, it's as close to healthy as I ever feel"

The passage highlights the notion that material possessions cannot provide true satisfaction to individuals. Instead, genuine fulfillment is attained by offering one's time and attention to others. This is exemplified by Morrie, who consistently demonstrates love and concern for people, regardless of his own health condition. Even after being diagnosed with ALS, Morrie becomes even more focused on the well-being of others. He is willing to give everything he has as long as he is physically capable of doing so. His condition becomes irrelevant in the face of his desire to give love and attention to those around him. Through these acts of kindness, Morrie finds a profound sense of vitality and meaning in life. Materialistic possessions hold no significance in his life; it is the connection with people that brings him the greatest joy and fulfillment.

In addition to Morrie's impact on others, Mitch, while studying at Brandeis University, also receives love and guidance from Morrie. He learns valuable life lessons from Morrie and develops a strong relationship with him. Throughout their four-year relationship, Mitch gains insights into the intricacies of human relationships, particularly the importance of sincerity from both individuals involved. The depth of their bond is evident in the following statement:

"*The discussions give me an excuse to talk to him, fatherly conversations I cannot have with my own father, who would like me to be a lawyer*" (1997: 47).

Their relationship transcends the conventional boundaries of student and teacher, resembling more of a father-son bond. Mitch encounters the perfect mentor who provides guidance and invaluable lessons to navigate various stages of life. Over the course of nearly four years, they cultivate a friendship brimming with profound meaning and life lessons. This friendship imparts a positive perspective on life to Mitch, prompting him to delve into the exploration of life's purpose, even though he may not have fully implemented the wisdom gained from their conversations during his studies. Having discovered the profound love he received from Morrie, Mitch feels a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to reciprocate everything Morrie has done for him. In the final stages of Morrie's life, Mitch expresses his love and affection

towards him as a way to honor their relationship and as a personal achievement in understanding the true meaning of life. This sentiment is encapsulated in the following citation:

"*We held hands regularly now*" (1997: 154).

Mitch expresses his affection for Morrie by holding his hand, a tangible gesture of love that he can offer at that moment. This act of affection stems from the deep love Mitch wishes to share with Morrie, as it represents one of the few things he is currently able to do. Giving affection to others has a profound and positive impact on Mitch's heart, as he learns that love is the cornerstone of meaningful human relationships. Observing Morrie's unwavering display of love towards those around him, including his family, friends, colleagues, and visitors, reinforces this understanding. Despite being unable to offer love to his brother, who refuses help from the family, Mitch finds solace in directing his love towards Morrie, providing him with the opportunity to express and reciprocate the affection he desires to give. Morrie deeply cherishes the love he receives in his life because he has experienced the emptiness and sadness that comes from a lack of love. He recognizes the immense value of having loved ones by his side, as their presence fills his life with meaning and joy. In contrast to Mitch, who has been fortunate to receive love since a young age, Morrie has known what it feels like to lack a supportive and loving environment. He particularly mentions his younger brother, who played a significant role in his childhood, providing companionship and affection during those formative years.

Morrie and Mitch undergo various hardships that serve as a catalyst for them in their pursuit of finding the meaning of life. From an early age, Morrie endures significant pain and anguish due to the devastating loss of his mother. This is evident in the following quotation, which vividly depicts the profound sorrow he experiences upon her death.

He was eight years old. A telegram came from the hospital, and since his father, a Russian immigrant, could not read English, Morrie had to break the news, reading his mother's death notice like a student in front of the class.

"*We regret to inform you …*" he began (1997: 73).

The news of his mother's death comes as an overwhelming shock, shattering Morrie's fragile state of mind as a child who loses a significant figure in his life. He is devastated by this sudden loss, as his mother was his sole source of dependence and support. Being young and in need of affection and love

from his parents, Morrie is ill-prepared to comprehend the concept of death or cope with such profound suffering. This leaves him to face his grief alone, which is an immense burden for a child who has yet to grasp the true meaning of suffering. In order to navigate through the sorrow of losing his mother, Morrie requires support and assistance from someone else. Ideally, this support should come from his father, who is the only remaining parent in his life. Unfortunately, his father fails to fulfill his role as a loving parent, depriving Morrie of the love and affection he desperately needs. As evident in this statement:

> And in the afternoons, he stood at the bottom of the subway steps and hawked magazines, turning whatever money he made over to his family to buy food. In the evenings, he watched his father eat in silence, hoping for—but never getting—a show of affection, communication, warmth" (1997: 75).

A father typically carries the responsibilities of being the provider and protector of his family, yet Charlie falls short in fulfilling these roles. Although he is employed, he does not exert extra effort to adequately meet the needs of his family. He fails to consider how he can bring satisfaction to his family by ensuring their needs are met, particularly those of his children. Charlie's lack of knowledge or understanding does not excuse him from his duties as a father. Given their impoverished state, Morrie takes it upon himself to assist his father in earning money, demonstrating his sense of responsibility as a child. In addition to neglecting their material needs, Charlie also fails to provide his children with the love and affection they require. As the sole surviving parent, it is Charlie's responsibility to offer affection to his children, yet he neglects this essential aspect of parenting. Charlie's actions or lack thereof exemplify his failure to fulfill the responsibilities expected of a father. In addition to withholding love, Morrie's father goes even further by explicitly instructing him to erase the memory of his mother from his mind, as evidenced in the following statement.

> "*Incredibly, Morrie had been told by his father never to talk about her. Charlie wanted young David to think Eva was his natural mother*" (1997: 77).

Charlie deeply wounds Morrie's heart by demanding that he discard his cherished memories of his mother. This request is emotionally detrimental to Morrie, as the figure of a mother holds a special place in a child's heart that cannot be replaced by anyone or anything.

Furthermore, Morrie experiences additional suffering in his childhood as he faces the burden of his father's insistence that he find employment. Charlie puts pressure on Morrie to work, and this causes great concern and worry within him regarding the potential consequences of taking on such a job.

> He entered the factory and immediately felt as if the walls had closed in around him. The room was dark and hot, the windows covered with filth, and the machines were packed tightly together, churning like train wheels. The fur hairs were flying, creating a thickened air, and the workers, sewing the pelts together, were bent over their needles as the boss marched up and down the rows, screaming for them to go faster. Morrie could barely breathe. He stood next to his father, frozen with fear, hoping the boss wouldn't scream at him, too (1997: 77-78).

The combination of pressure from his father and the harsh conditions of the factory leave Morrie feeling oppressed. It is evident that it is unjust to demand underage children to work, especially in physically demanding environments that require brute force. Subjecting children to such conditions can have detrimental effects on their physical and mental well-being. Instead, children should be given the opportunity to grow and develop based on their individual talents, interests, and desires. They deserve the chance to enjoy their childhood, engage in play, and pursue learning. Constant pressure from a young age can lead a child to become either introverted and suppressed by the fear they experience or rebellious, attempting to release their pent-up emotions onto their surroundings. A child requires someone by their side who can protect not only their physical well-being but also their emotional well-being. If Morrie's father were a good man, he would have provided him with the space and time to explore his interests and enjoy his childhood. Unfortunately, such considerations never crossed Charlie's mind. Morrie continues to endure suffering even in his old age. He is confronted with the harsh reality of being diagnosed with a debilitating illness known as ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), as described in the following quotation,

> "*Morrie had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Lou Gehrig's disease, a brutal, unforgiving illness of the neurological system*" (1997: 7).

This illness, ALS, progressively deteriorates Morrie's physical condition, attacking his neurological system. It significantly limits his abilities, rendering him unable to perform tasks he could easily do in his healthy state. The disease ultimately leads to paralysis, stripping away his independence.

Morrie loses the ability to walk, swallow solid food, move certain parts of his body, speak, and even urinate. Consequently, he requires assistance with these basic functions. However, despite the challenges he faces, Morrie maintains a unique and positive perspective towards his illness and impending death. He finds solace in the experience of regressing to a state of dependency, likening it to being a baby once again. ALS unexpectedly empowers him to face the disease with strength and resilience, as depicted in the following quotation,

> He would not wither. He would not be ashamed of dying. Instead, he would make death his final project, the center point of his days. Since everyone was going to die, he could be of great value, right? He could be researched. A human textbook. Study me in my slow and patient demise.
> Watch what happens to me. Learn with me (1997: 10).

Morrie embraces ALS and his impending death as valuable teachings for his own life. He wholeheartedly accepts them and sees them as an important final mission, leaving behind a significant legacy for others. Morrie perceives himself as a conduit through which people can truly understand how to confront mortality. By observing his condition, they can learn to face their own eventual demise. Morrie believes that by comprehending this concept, individuals can embrace death as an integral part of life rather than a burdensome weight. Moreover, they can discover the positive aspects of death, which foster sincerity and a deeper appreciation for life's essentials, ultimately leading to a more fulfilling existence.

After Mitch's graduation, he experiences a period of darkness and confusion in his life. He finds himself lost, primarily due to the numerous failures he encounters during this time. These setbacks become catalysts for Mitch's search for the meaning of life. One of these hardships arises from his inability to realize his dreams, as depicted in the following statement:

> My dream was to be a famous musician (I played the piano), but after several years of dark, empty nightclubs, broken promises, bands that kept breaking up and producers who seemed excited about everyone but me, the dream soured. I was failing for the first time in my life (1997: 14).

Diverse outcomes exist when it comes to individuals pursuing and achieving their dreams. Mitch finds himself among those who struggle to make their dreams a reality. Despite harboring a desire to become a pianist, Mitch is unprepared to face the numerous obstacles that arise. He succumbs to

discouragement and allows adverse circumstances to undermine his pursuit of his dream. Confronting the realities of the world, Mitch realizes that realizing his dream is far from easy. He becomes uncertain and hesitant in holding onto his aspirations, as the world he encounters differs greatly from his initial ideals.

Additionally, Mitch experiences another source of suffering when his uncle passes away. This loss weighs heavily upon him, particularly following his inability to bring his dream to fruition. The death of his uncle exacerbates his feelings of disappointment and adds to his overall sense of distress, as depicted in the following quotation:

> At the same time, I had my first serious encounter with death. My favorite uncle, my mother's brother, the man who had taught me music, taught me to drive, teased me about girls, thrown me a football—that one adult whom I targeted as a child and said,
>
> "*That's who I want to be when I grow up*"—died of pancreatic cancer at the age of forty-four (1997: 14-15).

Mitch undergoes a series of successive sufferings, each one adding to his burden. First, he endures the loss of his dream, followed by the loss of his beloved uncle. The pain of losing his uncle is particularly profound, as his uncle was not only a close relative but also a role model to Mitch. This experience marks Mitch's initial encounter with the sorrow associated with death.

Another source of suffering arises from the strained relationship with his distant brother. The following quotation sheds light on this aspect,

> The bad news was, my brother did not want me around—not me, nor anyone in the family. Much as we tried to call and visit, he held us at bay, insisting this fight was something he needed to do by himself. Months would pass without a word from him. Messages on his answering machine would go without reply. I was ripped with guilt for what I felt I should be doing for him and fueled with anger for his denying us the right to do it (1997: 96-97).

Mitch experiences the heavy burden of a broken family relationship, particularly with his brother. Peter's decision to separate himself from the family is motivated by his desire for personal space and to handle his own troubles privately, avoiding sharing them with his family. This decision deeply saddens Mitch, not only as a member of the family but also as an older brother who feels a responsibility to care for and protect his younger

brother in any circumstance. Mitch longs to keep his brother close, cherishing the precious memories they shared in the past, and therefore struggles to accept Peter's choice.

Another source of suffering arises when Mitch loses his job due to an ongoing strike at his workplace. This event is described in the following quotation:

> I felt confused and depressed. Although the TV and radio work were nice supplements, the newspaper had been my lifeline, my oxygen; when I saw my stories in print in each morning, I knew that, in at least one way, I was alive. Now it was gone (1997: 44).

Losing his job has a profound impact on Mitch, as it represents the foundation of his life and the means to pursue his materialistic ambitions, particularly the accumulation of wealth. He views money as the sole source of happiness, and thus, the loss of his job shakes him to the core.

Although Mitch's suffering may not be as intense as Morrie's, both individuals have gained invaluable insights from their respective experiences. Morrie's journey teaches him to value life and accept his condition with ALS. In the end, Morrie achieves the peace he sought when he passes away. Mitch, on the other hand, learns from his own story as well as Morrie's life, understanding that suffering is an inherent part of life that must be embraced wholeheartedly. Consequently, he finds inner peace and learns to accept both his limitations and capabilities. Furthermore, Mitch is able to mend his relationship with his brother, as depicted in the following passage:

> Not long after Morrie’s death, I reached my brother in Spain. We had a long talk. I told him I respected his distance, and that all I wanted was to be in touch—in the present, not just the past—to hold him in my life as much as he could let me (1997: 190).

Mitch has gained a profound understanding of the importance of family dynamics, particularly the significance of respecting each other's choices. He has learned to honor Peter's decision to distance himself from the family and focus on his own pursuits. Mitch recognizes the value of granting Peter the space he desires to manage his personal affairs.

Chapter 3

The Influence of Morrie on Mitch Albom Personality Development

This section examines the development of Mitch's personality and the various factors that contribute to its formation, drawing from theories presented in chapter two. According to Hurlock (1974: 143-380), there are eight factors that influence personality: educational determinants, family determinants, sex determinants, aspirations and achievements, social determinants, emotional determinants, intellectual determinants, and physical determinants. Among these factors, Mitch's personality is primarily shaped by his aspirations and achievements.

Mitch's aspirations stem from the experience of his uncle's death from pancreatic cancer, leading him to believe that he may also face the same fate. As a result, Mitch becomes a workaholic, driven by the fear of dying before attaining his desired accomplishments and financial success. Based on Hurlock's theory (1974: 265), Mitch's aspirations can be classified as negative aspirations since they are driven by a desire to avoid failure.

Significant individuals can also have a profound impact on one's personality. When these individuals undergo personal changes and one tries to adapt their behavior patterns, attitudes, beliefs, values, and aspirations, changes in one's own personality pattern are likely to occur (Hurlock, 1974: 126). In Mitch's case, his teacher at Brandeis University, Morrie Schwartz, serves as a significant person who profoundly influences his personality. After sixteen years of separation, Mitch and Morrie reunite, and during their time together, Morrie imparts valuable lessons on "The Meaning of Life" to Mitch. Through his teachings and exemplary actions, Morrie gradually brings about changes in Mitch's personality. The ways in which Morrie influences Mitch's personality development are analyzed as follows:

Morrie’s Influence on Mitch’s Wisdom

At the beginning of the story, Mitch demonstrates a lack of wisdom in his approach to life. Being a workaholic, he prioritizes his work above everything else. This is evident when Mitch makes his first visit to Morrie's house, where he engages in a business call with a producer rather than immediately getting out of the car to see Morrie (p.27).

However, this initial encounter with Morrie leaves a lasting impact on Mitch. He becomes deeply affected by the surroundings of Morrie's house, noticing details such as the presence of a Japanese maple tree and hardwood floors, which symbolize the time Morrie spends with his loved ones. Comparing it to his own life consumed by work, Mitch experiences a sense of envy towards Morrie's lifestyle. Moreover, Morrie's words resonate with him, particularly his teachings on culture and how American culture often fails to create a sense of comfort for people.

Through these experiences, Mitch begins to reflect on his own priorities and the meaning he attaches to his work. This encounter with Morrie marks the start of Mitch's journey towards wisdom and a deeper understanding of the importance of human connection and a more balanced approach to life.

> *I remembered what Morrie said during our visit: "The culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. And you have to be strong enough to say if the culture doesn't work, don't buy it."* (p.42)

Mitch constantly recalls the words and teachings of Morrie, which start to challenge his perspective on life. However, his strong work ethic and ambition for wealth and success still dominate his thoughts. This mindset leads him to prioritize worldly pleasures and materialistic pursuits.

One vivid memory that sticks with Mitch is his time in London, where he is reporting on the prestigious Wimbledon tennis competition. He is impressed by the crowd's respectful behavior, as there are no boos or drunkenness in the parking lot. However, he also notices the presence of newsstands outside the gate, selling colorful British tabloids. These tabloids feature enticing content such as topless women, paparazzi pictures of the royal family, horoscopes, and lottery contests. Despite being aware of the shallow nature of these tabloids, Mitch confesses that he often indulges in purchasing them.

This recollection showcases Mitch's internal struggle between his desire for success and materialistic pleasures, as influenced by his cultural surroundings. The contrast between the dignified atmosphere of the tennis event and the allure of tabloid newspapers highlights the tension within Mitch's values and the ongoing battle to align his actions with the lessons he has learned from Morrie.

> *People scooped up these tabloids, devoured their gossip, and on previous trips to England, I had always done the same. But now, for some reason, I*

found myself thinking about Morrie whenever I read anything silly or mindless. (p.41)

During one of Mitch's visits to Morrie, an incident occurs that showcases Morrie's wisdom and leaves a profound impact on Mitch. While they are together, Morrie receives a phone call. Despite the interruption, Morrie values and appreciates Mitch's presence, so he instructs his nurse, Connie, to inform the caller to call back later, emphasizing that he is currently spending time with his dear friend. This wise and considerate gesture from Morrie deeply moves Mitch, as he feels genuinely valued and appreciated. However, Mitch initially struggles to comprehend why Morrie welcomes him with such warmth. Nonetheless, touched by Morrie's wisdom, Mitch decides to adopt a similar approach in his own life. Previously, Mitch's work had always taken precedence, but now he undergoes a shift in his priorities. Upon his subsequent visits, Mitch no longer carries a cellular phone during his journey from the airport. He no longer allows his business matters to interfere with his time spent with Morrie, unlike his initial visit. When he is with Morrie, Mitch strives to be fully present, wholeheartedly focusing on their interactions without the distractions of his professional obligations. This transformation in Mitch's behavior demonstrates his growing understanding of the importance of personal connections and cherishing meaningful moments with loved ones. Inspired by Morrie's wisdom, Mitch endeavors to prioritize human connections over work responsibilities, embracing a newfound appreciation for the richness of genuine relationships.

> *…But I seemed to slip into a time warp when I visited Morrie, and I like myself better when I was there. I no longer rented a cellular phone for the rides from the airport. Let them wait, I told myself, mimicking Morrie.* (p.55)

The aforementioned observations indicate a significant transformation in Mitch's behavior and mindset. He no longer indulges in reading useless tabloids, a habit he previously had. Morrie's wisdom plays a crucial role in shaping Mitch's newfound wisdom. Mitch undergoes a change from someone who predominantly prioritized work to someone who prioritizes Morrie, a person he deeply cares for, during their visits. Based on the

analysis presented, it can be concluded that Morrie has profoundly influenced Mitch's personality through their interactions, the lessons he imparts, and the advice he offers. Morrie's wisdom has instilled in Mitch a sense of greater wisdom. Mitch's development is evident as he transitions from being a workaholic, which led to a selfish outlook, to someone capable of correctly prioritizing and valuing others. Referring to Hurlock's theory (1974: 120-122) on the characteristics of personality changes, Mitch's transformation can be classified as a positive change.

In summary, Morrie's influence has played a vital role in shaping Mitch's character, fostering personal growth, and helping him prioritize meaningful connections over work. Mitch's evolution exemplifies the potential for positive personality change when exposed to wise guidance and transformative experiences. Mitch's transformation can be regarded as a successful adjustment from a selfish individual to someone who demonstrates wise prioritization. It is important to note that Mitch's change is not a complete replacement of his previous traits, but rather a weakening of his workaholic nature and a significant growth in wisdom. This change can be characterized as both quantitative and rapid. It is quantitative because his existing characteristics undergo a shift, and his wisdom begins to outweigh his workaholic tendencies. Furthermore, Mitch's personality change is observable and evident to those around him, as supported by the analysis provided. This rapid change is notable since it occurs within a relatively short timeframe during Mitch's interactions with Morrie over a few weeks.

Morrie’s Influence on Mitch’s Self Concepts

The self-concept of each individual is highly personal and can vary from person to person. According to Hurlock (1974: 120), the self-concept is typically stable and resistant to change. However, she also acknowledges that the core of one's self-concept can undergo transformations if there are perceived shifts in the attitudes and treatment of significant individuals in one's life. In the novel, Mitch possesses two significant self-concepts: the concept of love and the concept that men should not cry. Morrie identifies these self-concepts within Mitch. As Morrie holds great significance in Mitch's life, his characteristics indirectly influence Mitch's personality and self-concept. Through the following analyses, it becomes evident that Mitch's self-concepts undergo changes due to his interactions with Morrie.

On Mitch's Self Concept of Happiness and Love

As previously mentioned, Mitch is driven by a desire to acquire wealth and accomplishments before his life ends, following in the footsteps of his late uncle. He believes that accumulating money and achieving success will bring him happiness. This mindset leads him to become a workaholic, dedicating himself to five different jobs in pursuit of his goals.

> *Instead, I buried myself in accomplishments, because with accomplishments, I believed I could control things, I could squeeze in every last piece of happiness before I got sick and died, like my uncle before me, which I figured was my natural fate* (p.17).

After a long separation, Mitch reunites with Morrie and they establish a weekly class on Tuesdays. These meetings become an opportunity for Mitch to receive valuable lessons from Morrie. One significant topic Morrie emphasizes is the importance of love and happiness. Morrie questions Mitch about his dedication to love, reminding him of a past conversation during their time at Brandeis University when Mitch expressed his intention to prioritize love over money in his life.

> *Yet, here was Morrie talking with the wonder of our college years, as if I'd simply been on a long vacation.*
> *"Have you found someone to share your heart with?"*
> *he asked. "Are you giving to your community?*
> *"Are you at peace with yourself?*
> *"Are you trying to as human as you can be?*
> *I squirmed, wanting to show I had been grappling deeply with such questions. What happened to me? I once promised myself I would never work for money, that I would join the Peace Corps, that I would live in beautiful, inspirational places.* (p.34)

Morrie's thought-provoking questions serve as a reminder for Mitch to reflect on his past words and actions. They prompt him to recall his earlier commitment to work for love and dedicate himself to it. Despite becoming consumed by work and forgetting his initial intentions, Mitch is now reminded of Morrie's teachings from their university

days. Morrie had emphasized the significance of love and the understanding that even though love requires sacrifice, it ultimately triumphs. "Have I told you about the tension of opposites?" he says. The tension of opposites?

"Life is a series of pulls back and forth. You want to do one thing, but you are bound to do something else. Something hurts you, yet you know it shouldn't. You take certain things for granted, even when you know you should never take anything for granted.

"A tension of opposites, like a pull on a rubber band. And most of us live somewhere in the middle."

Sounds like a wrestling match, I say.

"A wrestling match." He laughs. "Yes, you could describe life that way." So which side wins, I ask?

"Which side wins?"

He smiles at me, the crinkled eyes, the crooked teeth.

"Love wins. Love always wins." (p.40)

During a particular incident, Mitch has an encounter with reporters who aggressively pursue a renowned celebrity. In the midst of the commotion, one of the reporters carelessly collides with Mitch, prioritizing his expensive camera over offering an apology. This encounter triggers a recollection of Morrie's teachings in Mitch's mind. Morrie had emphasized that many individuals lead empty lives as they relentlessly chase superficial and misguided pursuits. According to Morrie, genuine meaning and fulfillment in life stem from dedicating oneself to love, their community, and the creation of something purposeful. Mitch finds resonance in Morrie's words, realizing that his numerous jobs do not align with these values. Morrie's message highlights the primacy of love above all else.

> *On one particularly crazy day, a crush of reporters had tries to chase down Andre Agassi and his famous girlfriend, Brook Shields, and I gotten knocked over by a British photographer who barely muttered "Sorry" before sweeping past, his huge metal lenses strapped around his neck. I thought of something else Morrie had told me: "So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-sleep, even when they are busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."*
>
> *I knew he was right.*
>
> *Not that I did anything about it.* (pp.43-44

Mitch gains a valuable lesson from Morrie's cautionary advice regarding the significance of money. Morrie emphasizes that money should not be the primary focus in life. Instead, he encourages Mitch to embrace his humanity fully, which entails actively engaging with the society around him. Morrie teaches Mitch the importance of cultivating love and genuine connections with others. Each time we talk, he listens to me ramble, then he tries to pass on some sort of life lesson. He warns me that money is not the most important thing, contrary to the popular view on campus. He tells me I need to be a "fully human." He speaks of the alienation of youth and

> *the need for "connectedness" with the society around me. Some of these things I understand, some I do not. It makes no difference. The discussions give me an excuse to talk to him, fatherly conversations I cannot have with my own father, who would like me to be a lawyer.* (pp.46-47)

During another interaction, Morrie imparts a lesson to Mitch regarding the distinction between human needs and wants. Morrie explains that while individuals require basic necessities like food and shelter, their wants often extend beyond these essentials, such as desiring a chocolate sundae or the largest house. Morrie highlights how the pursuit of excessive desires can lead to greed and dissatisfaction. He suggests that genuine satisfaction arises when individuals can contribute something meaningful to others. Morrie encourages Mitch to dedicate himself to acts of kindness, whether small gestures towards others, serving the community, or promoting collective well-being. Through his modesty, Morrie strives to influence Mitch's perception and understanding.

> *"There are plenty of places to do this. You don't need to have a big talent. There are lonely people in hospitals and shelters who only want some companionship. You play cards with a lonely older man and you find new respect for yourself, because you are needed.*
> *"Remember what I said about finding a meaningful life? I wrote it down, but now I can recite it: Devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.*
> *"You notice," he added grinning, "There's nothing in there about a salary."* (p.127)

Morrie imparts another valuable lesson to Mitch, this time emphasizing the significance of love within the family. Morrie emphasizes that family holds a crucial role in one's life, particularly during times of illness or hardship. It is within the family that individuals receive love, care, and concern when they need it most. Morrie underscores the importance of recognizing and

cherishing the love within one's family, urging Mitch to cultivate an awareness of this essential aspect of life.

> *“The fact is, there is no foundation, no secure ground, upon which people stand today if it isn’t the family. It’s become quite clear to me as I’ve been sick. If you don’t have the support and love and caring and concern that you get from a family, you don’t have much at all. Love is so supremely important. As our great poet Auden said, “Love each other or perish.’“*
> *“Love each other or perish.” I wrote it down. Auden said that?*
> *“Love each other or perish,” Morrie said. “It’s good, no? And it’s true. Without love, we are birds with broken wings.*
> (pp.91-92)

Morrie's wise and modest nature indirectly influences a transformation in Mitch's self-concept. Mitch, who was previously consumed by work and material success, undergoes a change and becomes more focused on helping others, engaging in charitable acts, and cultivating love and care for those around him. He seeks to make his life meaningful by dedicating himself to serving others.

Furthermore, Morrie imparts insights about the importance of family. He emphasizes that a family not only provides love but also serves as a constant source of support and protection. Morrie highlights the irreplaceable role that family plays in one's life, surpassing the significance of money, fame, or even professional accomplishments.

> *“This is a part of what a family is about, not just love, but letting others know there’s someone who is watching out for them. It’s what I miss so much when my mother died – what I call ‘spiritual security’ – knowing that your family will be there watching out for you. Nothing else will give you that. Not money. Not fame.”*
> He shot me a look.
> “*Not work*”, he added. (p.92)

The valuable lessons and advice on love and family that Morrie imparts to Mitch prove to be transformative. On the fifth Tuesday of their meetings, Morrie focuses on the significance of family, enlightening Mitch about its precious nature. Prior to the tenth Tuesday visit, Mitch initiates a phone call to Morrie. During the conversation, Morrie expresses his desire to speak with Janine, prompting Mitch to invite her to accompany him on that specific Tuesday. When the day arrives, Mitch visits Morrie accompanied by Janine, who engages in heartfelt conversations with Morrie. Morrie shares anecdotes about his teaching experience in Detroit and even requests Janine, being a professional singer, to serenade him (pp. 143-147).

By inviting Janine to accompany him during the visit, Mitch demonstrates a notable change in his mindset as he now recognizes the importance of his wife's presence in his life. This decision serves as a small but meaningful proof of his personal growth. Upon their arrival at Morrie's house, Morrie subtly emphasizes the significance of Mitch's choice to bring Janine along. Through discussions about his teaching experiences in Detroit and his request for Janine to sing, Morrie indirectly encourages Mitch to prioritize and cherish his relationship with Janine alongside his professional endeavors. Morrie aims to instill in Mitch the realization that Janine is not only a loving and supportive spouse but also an integral part of his precious family.

Following Morrie's passing, Mitch takes the initiative to reach out to his brother Peter, expressing his deep affection and emphasizing Peter's significance in his life. Mitch openly shares his love for Peter and expresses his fear of losing their bond, underscoring the importance of their relationship to him.

> *Not long after Morrie's death, I reach my brother in Spain. We had long talk. I told him I respected his distance, and that all I wanted is to be in touch – in the present, not just the past – to hold him in my life as much as he could let me. "You're my only brother," I said. "I don't want to lose you. I love you." I had never said such thing to him before.* (p.191)

Mitch's shift in attitude towards his wife and brother clearly demonstrates the profound influence that Morrie has had on his understanding of

happiness. Initially, Mitch seemed indifferent to the well-being of his wife and his brother Peter, but Morrie's teachings have transformed his perspective. Mitch now not only cares for them deeply but also openly expresses his love for Peter, a sentiment he had never before voiced. This transformation signifies Morrie's impact on Mitch's self-concept of happiness, leading him to realize that true happiness is not derived from wealth and achievements, but from love.

In summary, Morrie's interactions with Mitch, his lessons, and his advice have significantly shaped Mitch's perception of happiness and love. Mitch no longer associates happiness solely with material wealth and accomplishments, but recognizes the profound value of love in his life. Drawing upon Hurlock's theory of personality changes, Mitch's transformation can be classified as a positive change. It is a qualitative change as his self-concept has undergone a complete shift. Initially, Mitch believed that material wealth and achievements were the key to happiness, but this belief has been replaced by the understanding that love is the ultimate source of fulfillment. Furthermore, Mitch's change in self-concept can be characterized as rapid, given the evident and relatively swift nature of the transformation occurring within a few months.

On Mitch’s Self Concept that Men do not Cry

Mitch holds the belief that men should not show their emotions through tears. In contrast, Morrie openly displays his emotions and frequently sheds tears. He allows himself to be moved by various experiences and events, and his sensitivity becomes even more pronounced after being diagnosed with ALS. Morrie often demonstrates his vulnerability by crying, illustrating to Mitch that it is okay to express genuine emotions.

During one conversation, Mitch questions why Morrie still keeps up with current events and remains invested in the world around him, considering his limited time left to live. In response, Morrie explains that by staying informed about global happenings, he feels a closer connection to those who are suffering, such as the innocent Bosnian victims. Overwhelmed by empathy and compassion, Morrie is moved to tears.

This instance serves as a poignant reminder to Mitch of the power of emotional authenticity and the importance of embracing one's feelings. Morrie's willingness to express his emotions, even in the face of his own

mortality, encourages Mitch to reevaluate his own beliefs regarding masculinity and the suppression of emotions.

> *He sighed. Maybe you're right. Maybe I shouldn't care. After all, I won't b around to see how it all turns out.*
>
> *"But it's hard to explain, Mitch. Now that I'm suffering, I feel closer to people who suffer than I ever did before. The other night, on TV, I saw people in Bosnia running across the street, getting fired upon, killed, innocent victims…and I just started to cry. I feel their anguish as if it were my own. I don't know any of these people. But—how can I put this?—I'm almost… drawn to them."*
>
> *His eyes got moist, and I tried to change the subject, but he dabbed his face and waved me off.*
>
> *"I cry all the time now,"* he said*. "Never mind*." (pp.50-51)

Indeed, Morrie purposefully demonstrates to Mitch that it is acceptable and healthy for men to express their emotions through tears. By openly crying and allowing his vulnerability to be seen, Morrie challenges societal stereotypes and encourages Mitch to question his own beliefs about masculinity. Morrie's intention is to provide Mitch with a living example that men can cry without compromising their strength or dignity. Through his actions, Morrie seeks to normalize emotional expression in men and foster a deeper understanding and acceptance of one's own feelings.

Mitch's transformation in his self-concept regarding men and crying is evident when he receives a fax from his brother Peter. The fax contains updates about Peter's activities in Spain and some humorous jokes. As Mitch reads the fax, he experiences a mix of emotions and finds himself laughing and shedding tears simultaneously. These tears represent tears of joy, reflecting Mitch's deep happiness and heartfelt response to his brother's positive news. This incident illustrates how Mitch's perspective on men expressing their emotions, including crying, has evolved, as he now embraces the emotional depth and vulnerability that comes with genuine feelings of joy and love for his family.

> *"HI I'VE JOINED THE NINETIES!" it began. He wrote a few little stories, what he had been doing that week, and a couple of jokes. In the end, he signed off this way:*
>
> *I HAVE HEARTBURN AND DIAHREA AT THE*

MOMENT—LIFE'S A
BITCH. CHAT LATER?
[signed] SORE
TUSH. I laughed until there were tears in my eyes.
(p.191)

Based on the aforementioned analysis, it can be concluded that Mitch undergoes a significant transformation in his self-concept regarding men and tears. He transitions from believing that men should not cry to embracing the notion that it is acceptable for men to express their emotions through tears. This change is supported by two key pieces of evidence. Firstly, Mitch sheds tears of sadness when he bids farewell to Morrie. Secondly, he experiences tears of joy upon reading the fax from his brother. According to Hurlock's theory on personality changes, Mitch's transformation is categorized as a positive change, as he successfully adjusts his perspective. This qualitative change occurs rapidly during his reunion with Morrie, further highlighting its significance.

In examining the factors influencing Mitch's personality changes, two determinants stand out: the intellectual determinant and the educational determinant, as proposed by Hurlock. Mitch is depicted as an intelligent individual, indicating a high intellectual capacity. This intellectual prowess enables him to make life adjustments and develop his personality. Additionally, the educational determinant plays a role in Mitch's transformation. According to Hurlock, the teacher-student relationship can greatly influence a student's personality development, with closer relationships leading to stronger influences. In the case of Mitch and Morrie, their bond as teacher and student is fortified by their discussions outside of school hours and Mitch's admiration for Morrie. This close relationship allows Morrie, as the teacher, to exert a positive influence on Mitch's personality, shaping him into a wiser individual.

It is worth noting that changing Mitch's self-concept requires a longer period of time, as self-concept is considered the core of one's personality and is inherently resistant to change, as explained by Hurlock. Through continuous lessons, advice, and Morrie's embodiment of wisdom, he gradually alters Mitch's self-concept. Mitch

no longer associates happiness and love solely with money and achievements, but recognizes the significance of love as the ultimate source of happiness. Moreover, his perspective on men and crying undergoes a transformation, no longer perceiving tears as a source of shame for men.

Conclusion

In both real-life and fictional contexts, the psychological aspect of searching for the meaning of life can be examined. Viktor Frankl's theory provides a framework for understanding this quest, which is evident in the novel "Tuesdays with Morrie." The characters of Morrie and Mitch serve as examples of individuals who navigate different stages in their pursuit of purpose. Throughout their journey, they encounter a series of events and experiences that profoundly impact their understanding of life's meaning. These include engaging in meaningful work or actions, encountering influential individuals, and developing a specific mindset towards suffering. These elements play a crucial role in shaping their exploration and comprehension of life's significance.In summary, the characters Morrie and Mitch in the novel "Tuesdays with Morrie" undergo different stages in their search for the meaning of life. They engage in meaningful work, encounter significant individuals, and adopt a specific attitude towards suffering. Morrie discovers meaning through his work at a mental hospital, his role as a professor, interviews, and discussions with Mitch. Mitch also seeks meaning by participating in the discussions and collaborating with Morrie. Both characters find meaning through experiences and encounters with others, as they receive and reciprocate love and wisdom. Despite facing hardships, Morrie learns to accept and

navigate life's challenges, refusing to let his illness diminish his spirit. Morrie's journey and struggles can serve as a valuable model for Mitch, as Morrie demonstrates resilience in facing significant burdens. While Mitch's challenges may not be as daunting as Morrie's, he should summon the courage to confront his own burdens in order to discover the meaning of life, much like Morrie did. Furthermore, both Morrie and Mitch undergo personal growth and develop a deeper understanding of life by traversing the three pathways in their search for meaning. Morrie's influence on Mitch is evident through the lessons, advice, and interactions they share, all of which contribute to Mitch's personal development. Initially, Mitch displays traits of arrogance, greed, and selfishness, but under Morrie's guidance, he undergoes a transformative process, becoming a wiser individual. Morrie's wisdom and humility serve as crucial factors in shaping Mitch's character. As a result of this transformation, Mitch exhibits greater wisdom, indicating a positive change. This change can be considered an improvement as Mitch successfully adjusts his approach to life. It can also be categorized as a quantitative and rapid change. Rather than completely replacing his existing traits, Mitch's inclination towards workaholism diminishes, while his wisdom continues to flourish. The observable nature of this change further reinforces its rapid nature. Mitch's personality changes can be attributed to two key factors based on the eight determinants of personality: the intellectual determinant and the educational determinant. Mitch's innate intellectual capacity, as a smart student, plays a significant role in his personal growth. His intellectual capabilities contribute to the development of his personality. Additionally, Morrie, being a respected and admired teacher, has a profound influence on Mitch's character. Morrie's educational guidance and mentorship have had a transformative impact on Mitch, shaping his personality in a positive manner.

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